



Pylon Press

SPORTS CAR CLUB OF AMERICA -
PHOENIX AZ SOLO REGION

February 2026 Spring Series #3



Event Synopsis

BRIAN MILLER
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The weatherman once again provided us with a day of sunny and most pleasant weather to play with cars at the world renown Phoenix Raceway Facility. Event # 3 in the Spring Trophy Series was conducted on a fast and free flowing *Bill Pribil* designed course that allowed as many as three cars on the course at one time. That design efficiency allowed each driver four runs per entry. The battle within the various classes progresses with some tight contests for leadership evident in several car classes. In the ladies contest for top honors, it was the battle of old school vs. new technology with **Jessie Bistras** in a 2020 Camaro SS 1LE nipping out the venerable 1961 Ford F-100 P.U. of **Amanda Hitt** by a PAX time of .433 for top honors. In the DST class the two entries there were **Christian Medrano** and **Ryan Harwell**. Both ran in the 57 second range with Christian's 2017 Toyota nipping out Ryan's 2013 Scion FR-S by .297 tenth of a second. In the ever-competitive Super Stock Class which is populated by some of the fastest cars at the event, the top three contenders were very close, all scoring runs in the 53 second range. **Michael Colonna** in a 2024 Tesla M3P nipped out **Jason Siebel's** 2020 Corvette and the 2024 Porsche of **Jim Harris** by the slight edge of .284 seconds to take the top spot. In the GS class it was a battle of the Volkswagens for first place with **Nick Crohn** besting **Staford Snow** by a less than 1/2 a second. Once again several of these contests will come down to who wins at the April event. The final event of the spring series will be held on 4/19/26.

DRIVER OF THE MONTH

Levi Bonney



Levi Bonney is a high school senior in Peoria making strides in the world of motorsports. His interest in racing sparked when he attended a Solo autocross event with his father, where he was captivated by the cars navigating the course. This experience solidified his desire to get involved in autocross racing. Levi began his autocross journey in December of last year, marking his first entry into road racing. He aims to gain as much seat time and car control as possible, hoping to establish a foothold in the motorsports industry with aspirations of becoming an engineer in this field.

Driving is a family affair for Levi. His father taught him to drive in a 1952 Dodge M37 and has been coaching him ever since. Together, they co-drive Levi's 1986.5 Toyota Supra, which he bought at age 14. While the car is currently stock, Levi is working with his father to prepare it for autocross events.

Outside of racing, Levi works as a lifeguard and swim and dive instructor during the summer. This balance helps him manage his responsibilities while pursuing his interest in motorsports. It's young people like Levi that will be the ones to carry on the legacy of this club!

CAR OF THE MONTH



KRYSTA RAMOS
2003 VW Bug

Krysta Ramos, a vibrant car enthusiast from Los Angeles now living in Phoenix, is a self-proclaimed queen of the New Beetle. With a knack for finding the charm in overlooked cars, she proudly flaunts her latest gem, a 2003 VW New Beetle Turbo S, which she affectionately named "Ferry."

Having owned nearly 20 New Beetles, Krysta's passion for these quirky rides is evident. This Turbo S, her second of its kind, boasts a peppy 1.8t engine, but she's added an APR Stage 1 tune and a slew of upgrades, including adjustable coil overs and TT wheels.

The thrill of solo racing came as a delightful surprise for her. After rescuing an abandoned identical car for just \$100 during the pandemic, she quickly discovered the joy of the track—Ferry has already participated in multiple events, including HPDE classes and track days at Firebird. Krysta's automotive journey doesn't stop there; she has an impressive lineup that includes a 2010 convertible Final Edition and a 2004 VW Touareg. Her eclectic taste also extends to Fiat 500s and Mini Coopers. Each car carries its own personality, and for Krysta, it's all about the joy of the ride.

Oh, and one last thing—she names every single car she owns. :)

Mental Focus in Auto Cross Driving Mades You Faster

- 1. Spatial Awareness:** Fast drivers cultivate a sharp sense of spatial awareness, enabling them to anticipate the course layout, recognize optimal racing lines, and execute maneuvers with precision. This skill helps them gauge distances and speeds, allowing for instinctive reactions to changes in the course or conditions, ultimately enhancing overall performance.
- 2. Visualization:** Successful drivers often employ mental visualization techniques to rehearse the perfect run before hitting the course. By vividly imagining each turn, braking point, and acceleration phase, they build confidence and improve muscle memory. Research indicates that visualization can enhance actual performance by creating a mental blueprint, helping reduce anxiety and sharpen focus for the challenges ahead.
- 3. Concentration:** Maintaining high levels of concentration is crucial, as even a momentary lapse can lead to mistakes. This involves blocking out distractions and focusing solely on the task at hand. Sustained attention allows for swift reactions to unexpected obstacles or changes in traction, while effective concentration also aids in managing stress, keeping drivers calm and informed during high-pressure situations.

**"YOU DON'T HAVE
TO BE FAST**



IF YOU'RE A CLASSIC



SCCA Starting Line School

FEBRUARY 21, 2026
PHOENIX RACEWAY — AVONDALE, AZ



Volunteers of the Month

On Saturday, February 21, 2026, twenty-three eager students hit the track for a full day of training at Phoenix Raceway. The event was packed with valuable seat time and personalized coaching from both local and national-level drivers, providing an enriching experience for all participants.

The Sports Car Club of America (SCCA) Starting Line School is designed to introduce novice drivers to the fundamentals of solo racing, focusing on essential skills such as car control, track etiquette, and performance driving techniques. Participants not only gained insights from experienced instructors, also they had the chance to practice in a supportive environment, enhancing their confidence and abilities on the track.

Thanks to the overwhelming support from PASR volunteers! In this small space we can't name everyone who contributed; however, we want to extend our heartfelt appreciation to all those who made this event a success. Your presence truly made a difference for the students, helping them develop crucial skills as solo event drivers.

A big shoutout to everyone involved! Your dedication and enthusiasm turned this training day into a meaningful opportunity for growth and skill enhancement.

Check out the group picture above to see many of those who helped make this day unforgettable!

LOOK FOR THE HELPERS

VOLUNTEERS

THAT'S WHERE YOU FIND THE PEOPLE WITH THE BEST HEARTS



FASTEST SPORTS CAR

As of 2026, the title of the fastest production car on the market goes to the 2026 Chevrolet Corvette ZR1X according to Forbes Magazine

"Auto crossing: the art of turning thrills into skills, one corner at a time!"





TECH TIP

What RIGHT about Left Foot Braking

By Brian Miller, Pylon Press Editor

While attending the **Starting Line Driving School** on February 21, 2026, I caught a fascinating driving tip that truly surprised me. The lead instructor, a seasoned competitor in the world of motorsports, shared his growth as a driver. He revealed that, for years, he had relied on left foot braking during races. However, he recently shifted his approach and has been focusing on right foot braking instead. His reasoning? He believes that left foot braking can lead to excessive brake use while racing, ultimately affecting performance.

Wow! As someone who has always been a devoted left foot braker, this revelation sparked quite a bit of reflection. It's intriguing to consider how something as fundamental as our braking technique can have a significant impact on our lap times, especially when we're all striving to shave off those crucial fractions of a second in autocross racing.

This insight serves as a reminder that even the most experienced drivers continuously adapt and evolve their techniques. As we seek to enhance our skills, it's essential to remain open to new ideas and approaches. Who knows? This shift in braking strategy might just be the key to unlocking better performance on the track. Try it! See if it is right for you!



IF YOU WANT BETTER RESULTS, MAKE BETTER CHOICES.

QUOTES



YOU CAN'T BUY HAPPINESS,
HOWEVER YOU CAN
BUY A FUN CAR!



Pylon Quiz

Formula one drivers are considered some of the best athletes in the world. Listed below is the fitness regimen of Michael Schumacher, seven-time former world champion Formula One driver.

Which of the following FOUR fitness exercises listed below were "emphasized" in his rigorous four-hour fitness routine when he was active in racing.

1. Cardio work
2. Electronic whack amole speed game
3. Flexibility drills
4. Greco wrestling matches
5. Hand strengthening exercises
6. Neck muscle exercises
7. Push ups
8. Timed rope climbing
9. Weight training
10. Wind sprint running drills wearing a weighed vest

Exercises in Schumacher's Routine

1. **Cardio Work:** Essential for maintaining stamina throughout a race.
2. **Flexibility Drills:** Helped in preventing injuries and improving range of motion.
3. **Neck Muscle Exercises:** Critical for supporting the head during high-speed maneuvers.
4. **Weight Training:** Important for building overall strength and muscle endurance.